He next spoke about the grievance caused by the policy of the Government in directing Municipalities to undertake costly public works which were essential for public welfare. He also disapproved of the action of the Government in the wholesale abolition of the Government grant to the Changanachery Municipality. He then pointed out that it was necessary that all works involving heavy expenditure should be undertaken by the Government themselves, since Municipalities were unable to finance them under present conditions, even if all the taxes prescribed under the Municipal Regulation were levied at the maximum rates. In conclusion, the Member made the following suggestions for the consideration of Government.

1. Arrangements should be made for holding an annual conference of the representatives of the several Municipal Councils, preferably under the presidency of a person other than the Dewan.

2. Government should act according to the resolutions of that conference in the matter of additional taxation and in that of devolving more responsibility on the Councils.

3. Persons from whom the profession tax to the Municipality and the income tax to the Government were due, should be assessed to income tax only in respect of the amount due after deducting the profession tax to the Municipality.

4. Government should act in the belief that the Municipal Councils would discharge their duties in the matter of the levy of taxes and tolls with a due sense of responsibility, and no pressure should be put upon such public bodies.

5. Government should contribute to the Councils by way of annual grants amounts equal to those previously spent by them for the sanitation of the respective towns.

6. In case the control over public works and primary education was to be handed over to the Councils, the present budget allotment under those heads should also be transferred to the respective Councils.

7. Arrangements should be made so as to see that no toll is levied on a vehicle in more than one place on one and the same day.

8. Tolls or taxes already imposed should be abolished, if they did not yield an adequate revenue; and, if the rates were found to be excessive, they should be reduced.

9. Government themselves should undertake big public works without devolving their construction on the Municipal Councils.

10. Permission should be granted to the Changanachery Municipal Council to levy tolls on vehicles.

99. Some urgent needs of the town of Changanachery.

Mr. C. M. Joseph (Member, Municipal Council, Changanachery) spoke about the following needs of the town.

(1) The improvement of the Puvakkuttu *chira*.

(2) Opening new roads from the market landing to Vattappalli along the rear of the houses and shops situate on either side of the market and acquiring the necessary lands for the purpose at the cost of Government.

(3) To grant to the Municipal Council a site to be used as a public recreation ground.

(4) To construct a shed for the use of passengers and to instal a crane for the export and import of goods at the landing place.

(5) To open a canal from Alleppey to Changanachery.

(6) To re-establish a Second Class Magistrate's Court at Changanachery as the present Bench Magistrates' Court was not serving its purpose. The Member also presented a memorial to the Dewan, representing the necessity for the establishment of a Magistrate's Court at Changanachery.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the question of having a Magistrate's Court at Changanachery, you have presented a memorial and that will be examined. There is now a Bench Magistrates Court at Changanachery.

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Member.—No doubt we have got one, which was established in Dhanu 1098. But no complaints have been filed before that court till now. It is not because we have no complaints to prefer, but the opinion of the people regarding the *personnel* of the court is such that the people do not care to go to that court. So far as the Stationary Magistrate's Court is concerned, we have to go to Kottayam. In that court, there have been 21 committal cases and 452 first information cases. Of the former, 10 are from the Kottayam taluk and the remaining 11 from the Changanachery taluk. Of the 452 cases filed, 224 belong to Kottayam and 228 to Changanachery.

Dewan.—I do not think that the Kottayam file is too heavy. The distance between Changanachery and Kottayam is only about 10 or 12 miles. You are connected with Kottayam by the main road. All these things were carefully considered when the magisterial charges were recently redistributed.

Member.—The farthest *pakuthi* in the Changanachery taluk is 36 miles away from Kottayam, though the town is only 12 miles away.

Dewan.—We need not enter into a discussion on that topic. When the court was at Changanachery, the distances to the outlying parts would not have been much shorter. Government had the maps of the places and they had more than one conference with the District Magistrates and considered the various aspects of the matter. You must wait for some time to see the effect of the new arrangement. You have next dwelt upon the financial policy of the Government towards Municipalities. The question of the respective responsibilities of the Government and Municipalities is a highly controversial one. There is no end to differences of opinion on this matter. I agree with you in regard to one thing, and, that is, that a good many of the Municipalities that are not major Municipalities do not deserve to be Municipalities at all. I think that the real cause of all the present trouble is that the Municipal Regulation under which a number of taxes are contemplated and under which a highly urban locality is expected to raise its own taxes and serve its own needs has been applied to a number of places which are not urban, but which are only rural in character and in which there is, no doubt, much justification for a cry against municipal taxes. The remedy lies in your getting out of the Municipalities and adopting other methods for the administration of your local needs. I have only to repeat what I said to some other members, *viz.*, that, when the Village Panchayat Bill becomes law, it will be open to these smaller Municipalities either to continue under the complex Municipal Regulation or to go under the simple Village Panchayat Regulation under which you will not have to pay all the municipal taxes and you can enjoy your old arcadian simplicity and cater to your needs much more cheaply.

I wanted to have a Municipal conference about the beginning of this year, at which many of the questions connected with the policy of municipal administration could be discussed, and remembering as I did the objection raised that, at the first Municipal conference, the people who were present did not really represent the Municipalities, I wanted to ask the Municipalities themselves to send accredited representatives to the proposed conference. But I have postponed the holding of that conference in view of the fact that the proposed Village Panchayat Bill has not yet been introduced into the Legislative Council. After that Bill becomes law, the Government will convene a conference where all these points may be discussed, and, as far as possible, an agreement arrived at. Till then there is no use in criticising the present state of things.

In regard to local needs, the Puvakkattu *chira* was inspected by me and I think it is on the whole in a very good condition and does not require any very large outlay to make it fit for bathing purposes. If there is any little repair to be attended to, that may be done, and I believe an estimate has already been called for from the Chief Engineer in that matter. If the estimate is only for a small amount, the Municipality may do the work. If it is a big amount, the Government will contribute a portion of the cost and the Municipality can do the work with the help of that contribution.

In regard to the acquisition of land for opening roads leading to the market, that is a matter which requires investigation. We have got to see what it is going to cost.

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In regard to the recreation ground referred to, the Government offered the traveller's bungalow and its grounds to the Municipality, but I find that through a mistake the Municipality was asked to pay a rent. As I have told the Member for Mavelikara, if the land is placed at your disposal under the recent rules for the alienation of lands to Municipal Councils, Government need not demand any rent from you. If we can shift the traveller's bungalow elsewhere, we can transfer the present traveller's bungalow building and grounds to you, which you can use as a recreation ground.

In regard to the crane and shed at the landing ghaut, I shall ask the D. P. W. to put up the shed as in other landing places, but in regard to the crane it is a general question. If we provide a crane at Changanachery, then we may have to provide it in other places also. So we have to treat this as a general question and see whether the Government should do it. In regard to the improvement of the Alleppey-Changanachery canal, as I have already told another member, it is reported that it is not such a big proposition as it was originally thought to be and the matter is now engaging the attention of the Chief Engineer.

100. The health and sanitation of the town of Vaikam with special reference to the campaign against the hookworm disease.

Mr. T. A. Ganapati Aiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Vaikam) stated that, though the hookworm disease was prevalent now in various parts of the world, especially in tropical and sub-tropical countries, Travancore was particularly its abode, and that nearly 95 per cent. of the persons living in the town of Vaikam were infected with that disease. He pointed out that the Government of Madras had appointed an expert for investigation work and even now a special staff was working there, and that the Publicity Bureau had already issued several leaflets to warn the public of the great danger to which they were exposed by hookworm. Though from the Administration Report of 1097 it was seen that a special investigation officer was appointed in Travancore for conducting investigations into the hookworm disease also, yet it was not known whether that officer had submitted any report and whether any steps had been taken by the Government to prevent the further spread of the disease. He made the following proposals for the consideration of Government.

1. Since the worms had their origin in stagnant water, proper drainage works should be started, or the existing ones improved, so as to remove the dirt from the water all through the State.

2. The special officer should at once be directed to enquire into the matter and submit a comprehensive report stating fully the percentage of infection in Travancore with remedial measures for the same.

3. A regular campaign must be organised, vernacular leaflets must be distributed broadcast, and lectures delivered in all rural villages concerning the nature and prevention of the disease.

The Member urged that no time should be lost in finding remedies for the disease.

The Member then prayed that the canals round Vaikam might be deepened in order to carry away the water in the drainage channels which were water-logged for 8 months in the year, and that proper drainage arrangements should be made for removing the *kâdi* flowing from the Vaikam temple. He also stated that the infant mortality in the town was high and that no steps had been taken by the Government to reduce it, though a resolution passed by the Council on the subject was sent to the Government on the 9th Karkadakam, 1097.

Dewan's reply.—You say that the Vaikam Municipal Council forwarded a resolution dated the 9th Karkadakam, 1097, about infantile mortality. I have not seen that resolution. I shall look into the matter. You say that that resolution draws the attention of the Government to the high rate of infantile mortality in the town. We will have to see in the first place whether the figures

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